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East Timor/CNRM
National Council of Maubere Resistance

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INDONESIA ESCALATES REIGN OF TERROR IN EAST TIMOR

Thirteen Indonesian battalions each comprising 1000 men have been engaged for several weeks, in a major non-stop scorched earth campaign against Timorese guerrillas inside the occupied territory of East Timor.In parallel to the military offensive, a major crackdown against students, clergy and the general population is under way.
Timorese are being killed, arbitrarily detained, tortured both physically and psychologically, consequently the local population live in a constant state of fear and terror.
Diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria are rampant and killing an average of seven people a day according to church sources.These facts illustrate the lies about Indonesia's so called progress in East Timor.
Jailed Timorese resistance leader Mr Xanana Gusmao has been denied some of his most basic rights as a political prisoner.The reports from a reliable source, who for security reasons cannot be named, said of the jailed leader, that prior to his illegal transfer from Dili, East Timor to Semarang in Indonesia, on August 12, Mr Gusmao's request to see his family was denied.
His removal from East Timor to Indonesia is in contravention of the fourth Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of political prisoners.
Xanana later demanded to be placed in a political prison such as Chipinang. He has been denied access to paper and writing materials and his personal belongings have been confiscated. When placed in Semarang, a prison for common criminals Xanana said:
"This prison is a prison for criminal offenders to recuperate. I will not and I cannot recuperate, so why do I have to stay here?"
In protest against these abuses of his fundamental freedoms, Xanana began a hunger strike in August, lasting almost three weeks, during that time and to date he has not been given access by doctors or medical staff. Xanana was so weak he had to carried in order to attend the weekly church service.
Exiled East Timorese leader CNRM Co-Chairman Jose Ramos-Horta said in statement from New York on Monday;
"We call on the international community to condemn Indonesia's flagrant abuse of and arrogant attitude toward international human rights standards. The Indonesian authorities are responsible for the continuing genocide in East Timor and the mistreatment of Xanana Gusmao and all other Timorese political prisoners. We strongly protest his jailing and call for his immediate and unconditional release. We now have reason to question Alatas' capacity to deliver on the promises made at the third round of talks which took place on September 17 in New York. Mr. Alatas seems to be a sensitive man, I met him on a number of occasions in the past, but the culprits in this whole situation are the small minded military men who actually run Indonesia", said Ramos-Horta.
"It makes a mockery of the entire process."
Mr Ramos-Horta said that a letter to the ASG Mr Alvaro De Soto would call the UNSG to use his good offices as stated in the joint communique signed by Portugal & Indonesia on September 17, to send a special envoy to meet with Xanana Gusmao and investigate first hand, the attrocities occuring daily inside East Timor. We call on all human rights & humanitarian organizations including Amnesty International & Asia Watch and also for the international media to press for access to the occupied territory.

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